- Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means *i.e.* normally covered wagons etc.
- Loading of standardized bags as far as possible and leaving 18 inches space near the flap doors.
- Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

Wastage of wheat in Punjab

1742. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Punjab is losing 18 lakh metric tonnes of wheat due to wastage every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of a total 150 lakh metric tonnes of wheat produced in Punjab, almost 100 lakh metric tonnes are stored in the open;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government intends to take to solve this perennial problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of wheat stored under Covered and Plinth (CAP) in Punjab as on 01.11.2009 are as under:

State agencies	—	76.52 lakh metric tonnes
FCI	—	4.55 lakh metric tonnes

(d) In 2008 the Government of India has formulated a Scheme for construction of godowns of godowns for FCI-Storage requirements through Private Entrepreneurs. Under the Scheme, High Level Committee of Food Corporation of India (FCI) has approved creation of storage capacity of 71.25 lakh metric tonnes at various locations in Punjab. The godowns are proposed to be constructed through private investment, for which FCI would be guaranteeing the storage charges for 5 years. The government has also allowed Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) to build godowns at locations approved by the FCI within the 71.25 lakh metric tonnes of storage capacity approved, on their own land and with their own funds. FCI would provide 4 years Guarantee for the storage space so created by CWC/SWCs.

The outward movement of foodgrains from Punjab has been increased so as to create more storing space in the State. The outward movement of wheat from April to October, 2009 was 48.69 lakh metric tonnes as compared to 31.00 lakh metric tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

Allotment of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh under PDS

†1743. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.